Welcome to AI Matters 4(2)

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Issue overview

Welcome to the second issue of the fourth volume of the AI Matters Newsletter. This issue focuses on AI and Ethics, which is very timely given how often these subjects are appearing in the news lately. What really is fairness? How does an algorithm make a decision that can affect human's lives forever? Can it make a decision about whether or not to kill a person, in the case of autonomous weapons or in the case of autonomous cars? These and other other issues are discussed in the Larry Medsker's Policy column, Abhinav Maurya's report on the IEEE Big Data panel discussion about bias and transparency, Toby Walsh's opinion piece of AI as related to robber barons, and Bianca Helena Ximenes' contributed paper on autonomous car decision making.

Remember our request for new contributing editors last issue? We welcome several new contributing editors with this issue! Abhinav Maurya contributed the event report on the IEEE Big Data panel, Cameron and Tracey Hughes contributed an article on AI Cosmology, and Bianca Helena Ximenes contributed a paper on autonomous car/trolly decision making. You will be seeing more from them soon, I'm sure! Also, Sriraam Natarajan helped with overall editing for this issue.

In our regular columns, Todd Neller, our Education columnist, provides a great analysis of winning approaches to a recent Kaggle contest on predicting click-through rates. Michael Rovatsos contributed two columns, one on upcoming events of interest to the SIGAI community and one summarizing recent AI events. Be sure to check both of those out! Finally, we have a dissertation summary from Tauhidul Alam. This is a good time to remind the SIGAI community that we always welcome dissertation summaries. We also welcome a summary of the challenges of outreach from ACM SIGAI's Jinhong K. Guo and Rosemary Paradis.

Postdoc Networking Tour in Germany

We would like to point our readers to an initiative of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD, www.daad.de). This year, they offer a "Postdoctoral Researchers? Networking Tour" for postdocs working on Artificial Intelligence topics who are interested in (academic and non-academic) job opportunities in Germany. They offer

- a practice-oriented and diverse program to suit the requirements of the participants;
- coverage of program-related costs in Germany (accommodation, domestic travel, and most meals);
- a lump sum travel allowance if such costs are not covered by a third party, which will also be provided if the stay is extended by up to five working days in order to allow for additional professional networking.

The dates of the tour are September 23-29, 2018. The application deadline is July 15, 2018. Detailed information is available at: https://www.daad.de/veranstaltungen/networking-tour-2018/de/64036-postdoctoral-researchers-networking-tour-01/.

Submit to AI Matters!

Thanks for reading! Don't forget to send your ideas and future submissions to *AI Matters*! We're accepting articles and announcements now for the next issue. Details on the submission process are available at http://sigai.acm.org/aimatters.

Amy McGovern is chief Editor of AI Matters. She is a Professor of computer science at the University of Oklahoma and an adjunct professor of meteorology. She directs the Interaction, Discovery, Exploration and Adaptation (IDEA) lab. Her research focuses on machine learning and data mining with applications to high-impact weather.